(d) the details of steps proposed to secure some rights to the un-populated and ambiguous status of the Arctic Circle?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): No, Sir. India has sent this year its first team of scientists to Arctic to initiate research on atmospheric sciences, glaciology, geology and marine biology. The main focus of research is to increase our understanding about weather and global climate change processes.

(b) to (d) The Government has seen media reports in this regard. Such matters are governed by an International Treaty - the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which does not allow claims beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and all signatory nations including India are bound by this Convention. The purpose of sending the scientific team to Arctic is primarily to undertake research.

Development for controlling the flood problems

2142. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has developed any method or formula to control the flood problem of the country, particularly in Assam and Bihar, that has challenged our economy;

(b) whether this problem can be linked with environmental problem that caused human miseries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir. However, India Meteorological Department (IMD) of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) generates river basin scale quantitative precipitation estimates (QPF) in short range (24-72hrs) which is utilised by the Central Water Commission (CWC). Currently, daily Monsoon Watch carried out with the rainfall records manually received from States and CWC (from 945 stations covering 62 river basins) are used for assessment of monsoon rainfall scenario.

IMD is expanding rainfall monitoring network in its modernization plan by adding 1350 Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs). This is in addition to specific networks set up by States and SWC.

Action plans developed based on the Guidelines on Management of Floods will address the issues related to the flood control in the country including Assam and Bihar.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.